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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,734	05/25/2001	David Bartlett	08364.0019	3454

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EXAMINER

FLANDERS, ANDREW C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/856,734	BARTLETT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andrew C. Flanders	2644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 61-113, 115, 116 and 119-146 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 62-100, 109-113 and 119-138 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 61, 101-108, 115 and 139-146 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 September 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 61, 101, 102, 105, 108, 115, 117, 139, 140, 143 and 146 under U.S.C. 102 and claim(s) 103, 104, 106, 107, 141, 142, 144 and 145 under U.S.C. 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made and stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 61, 101, 102, 105 – 108, 115, 139, 140, 143 – 146 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabai (U.S. Patent 6,290,566) in view of Barclay (U.S. Patent 6,850,555).

Regarding **Claims 61 and 115**, Gabai discloses:

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A toy system comprising a toy responsive to a signal (title and abstract), wherein:
the toy comprises: a responder responsive to the data signal (i.e. each toy also comprises a toy control device, operative to receive a wireless signal transmitted by the computer and to cause each toy to perform an action based on the received signal; col. 13 lines 50 – 60).

Gabai does not explicitly disclose the method of transmission claimed by Applicant, specifically:

the system comprising an encoder for encoding a data signal to form a spread signal, an electro-acoustic transducer for converting the spread signal into a corresponding acoustic signal, and a toy responsive to the acoustic signal, wherein:

the encoder comprises (i) a first receiver operable to receive the data signal;
(ii) a spreader operable to spread the received data signal to form a spread signal; and

(iii) an output operable to output the spread signal,

and wherein the toy comprises: (i) an acousto-electric transducer operable to receive and convert the acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal;

(ii) a decoder operable to de-spread the electrical signal obtained from said acousto-electric transducer, in order to regenerate the data signal; and

(iii) a responder responsive to the data signal.

Barclay discloses:

A system comprising an encoder for encoding a data signal to form a spread signal (i.e. a signaling system that comprises a first signaling device having an input

terminal for receiving an electrical message data, a spread spectrum encoder for encoding the received message data; abstract),

an electro-acoustic transducer for converting the spread signal into a corresponding acoustic signal (i.e. an electro acoustic converter for converting the encoded data into corresponding acoustic signals; abstract), wherein:

the encoder comprises (i) a first receiver operable to receive the data signal (i.e. i.e. a signaling system that comprises a first signaling device having an input terminal for receiving an electrical message data; abstract);

(ii) a spreader operable to spread the received data signal to from a spread signal (i.e. a spread spectrum encoder for encoding the received message data; abstract); and

(iii) an output to output the spread signal (i.e. transmitting the acoustic signals into a transmission medium; abstract)

(i) an acousto-electric transducer operable to receive and convert the acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal (i.e. a second signaling device having means for receiving acoustic signals from said transmission medium and converting the received audio signals into a corresponding electrical signal; abstract;

(ii) a decoder operable to de-spread the electrical signal obtained from said acousto-electric transducer, in order to regenerate the data signal (i.e. a spread spectrum decoder; abstract).

Applying Barclay's transmission system to operate in place of the wireless transmission would thus create A toy system with a toy responsive to the acoustic signal and a toy with a responder responsive to the data signal.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the Barclay signaling system in place of the wireless transmitter of the Gabai toy. The Gabai toy operates in the 900 MHz region of the electromagnetic spectrum; col. 7 line 47. One would have been motivated to use Barclay in place of the 900 MHz transmitter/receiver in order to avoid having to use a high frequency modulation circuit that would require a demodulation circuit that on its own or together significantly increases the complexity and hence the cost of each of the toys; See Barclay col. 1 lines 35 – 40.

Regarding **Claim 101**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claim 61, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is operable to generate an output that is discernable to human beings (i.e. the toy may produce a sound; col. 14 lines 22 – 29 in Gabai and the toy performs an action based on the received signal; col. 13 lines 50 – 60 in Gabai).

Regarding **Claim 102**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claim 101, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is operable to cause the toy to output an acoustic signal determined using the data signal (i.e. the toy may produce a sound; col. 14 lines 22 – 29; which would be in response to the received signal; col. 14 lines 29 – 31 in Gabai).

Regarding **Claims 105 and 143**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 101 and 139, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is arranged to cause the toy to display a visual signal determined using the signal (i.e. the toy may be instructed to move a portion of itself; col. 14 lines 23 – 29).

Regarding **Claims 106 and 144**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 101 and 139, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is arranged to cause a movement of the toy in dependence upon a content of the data signal (i.e. the toy may be instructed to move a portion of itself; col. 14 lines 23 – 29).

Regarding **Claims 107 and 145**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 101 and 139, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is arranged to cause a movement of a part of the toy relative to the rest of the toy in dependence upon a content of the data signal (i.e. the toy may be instructed to move a portion of itself; col. 14 lines 23 – 29).

Regarding **Claims 108 and 146**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 61 and 115, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the toy further comprises:

a generator operable to generate a data signal (i.e. the toy control device is operative to transmit a signal intended for the computer; col. 14 lines 45 – 47 in Gabai).

The combination fails to disclose wherein the toy further comprises: a spreader operable to spread the generated data signal to form a spread signal and an electro-acoustic transducer operable to receive and to convert the spread signal into an acoustic signal.

Barclay discloses:

a spreader operable to spread the generated data signal to form a spread signal and an electro-acoustic transducer operable to receive and to convert the spread signal into an acoustic signal (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Barclay to the transmitter of the toy of Gabai. The Gabai toy operates in the 900 MHz region of the electromagnetic spectrum; col. 7 line 47. One would have been motivated to use Barclay in place of the 900 MHz transmitter/receiver in order to avoid

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having to use a high frequency modulation circuit that would require a demodulation circuit that on its own or together significantly increases the complexity and hence the cost of each of the toys; See Barclay col. 1 lines 35 – 40.

Regarding **Claim 139**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claim 115, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

a responder operable to generate an output that is discernable to human beings in dependence upon a content of the re-generated data signal (i.e. the toy may produce a sound; col. 14 lines 22 – 29 in Gabai and the toy performs an action based on the received signal; col. 13 lines 50 – 60 in Gabai)

Regarding **Claim 140**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claim 139, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder is operable to cause the toy to output an acoustic signal determined using the data signal (i.e. the toy may produce a sound; col. 14 lines 22 – 29 in Gabai and the toy performs an action based on the received signal; col. 13 lines 50 – 60 in Gabai)

Claims 103 and 141 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabai (U.S. Patent 6,290,566) in view of Barclay (U.S. patent 6,850,555) and in further view of Rose (U.S. Patent 4,480,602)

Regarding **Claims 103 and 141**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 102 and 140, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay further discloses:

wherein the responder comprises a processor operable to output the selected sound file via an electro-acoustic transducer (i.e. the toy control device, receives a signal from the computer and causes each to perform an action based on the received signal; col. 13 lines 50 – 55 in Gabai).

The combination fails to disclose wherein the processor selects one of a plurality of sound files stored in a memory in dependence upon a content of the data signal.

Rose discloses a doll that includes a CPU and a ROM having digital data indicative of speech. Gabai discloses that the toy may reproduce a recorded sound or synthesized speech but does not explicitly disclose that this sound is stored within a memory within the toy; col. 14 lines 23 – 29. Applying the memory taught by Rose to the toy disclosed by the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay would read upon the limitation of wherein the processor selects one of a plurality of sound files stored in a memory in dependence upon a content of the data signal.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of the toy in Rose including the ROM with the stored speech to the toy taught by the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay. One would have been motivated to do so to create an interactive toy that stimulates a child's development; see Rose col. 1 lines 58 – 67 and col. 2 lines 1 – 15.

Claims 104 and 142 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabai (U.S. Patent 6,290,566) in view of Barclay (U.S. patent 6,850,555) in further view of Rose (U.S. Patent 4,480,602) and in further view of Diamond (U.S. Patent 5,314,336).

Regarding **Claims 104 and 142**, in addition to the elements stated above regarding claims 103 and 141, the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay in further view of Rose fails to disclose wherein the memory is detachable.

Diamond discloses a child's toy that includes a detachable memory that stores a variety of sounds; abstract.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Gabai in view of Barclay in further view of Rose's memory to be detachable as taught by Diamond. One would have been motivated to do so to allow a variety of sounds that may be changed as desired; see Diamond's abstract.

Conclusion

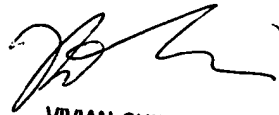
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Flanders whose telephone number is (571) 272-7516. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (571) 272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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